



CROMMER & McGUINEAS DRAIN PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, April 5, 2012
7:00 P.M.

Manistee High School Auditorium
525 12th Street, Manistee, Michigan

MINUTES

Members Present: Jim Krolczyk, County Board Chairman; Duane Anderson, County Commissioner; Tom Kaminski, County Controller/Administrator; Roger Smithe, Planning Commission Member; Mark DiBenedetto, Drain Commissioner; Guy Finout, Manistee Township; Frank Beaver, Tribal Representative; Barry Lind, Airport Manager; Richard Wilson, Representing West Shore Medical Center; Gerald Peterson, Road Commission Manager; Corrin Stzalka, Representing Michigan Department of Transportation; Julie Payne, Resident of Manistee Township; David Solberg, Resident of Manistee Township; Robert Carson, County Planner; Tom Wolf, PCS Services; and David Christian, DC Engineering

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Robert Carson, County Planner, opened the meeting by explaining that the Committee's purpose was to oversee a recommendation process for the Drain Commission office concerning the Crommer & McGuineas drains. The purpose of the meeting was also to get public comment on potential solutions to this problem. The Crommer & McGuineas drains are located in Manistee Township. The Crommer drain, an open ditch, starts to the north of River Road and flows westerly, roughly paralleling River Road until the drain crosses under US 31 through a culvert. The Crommer drain continues flowing west as an open ditch until reaching a junction with the McGuineas drain, which flows southwest as an open ditch until reaching Kemmer Road, where the drain goes underground into a buried drain pipe. The drain from this point heads south, crossing under US 31 again until it empties into the wetlands of the Manistee River outlet behind the hospital. The Crommer and McGuineas drains are located in an historically established drainage district.

In May 2011, Manistee County experienced a 100 year storm event, which brought a significant amount of rainfall in a short period of time to the land area of the County. This rainfall overwhelmed the Crommer and McGuineas drains and resulted in overland storm water flow, which inundated several properties with severe flooding in the vicinity of Kemmer Road. The Drain Commission office received complaints regarding the flooding, and upon inspection, found that the likely reason was the condition of the Crommer and McGuineas drains. Upon request

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to the County Board of Commissioners by the Drain Commission office, an engineering firm was hired to survey the drains and provide a preliminary report on the status of the drains. The survey included visual inspection of the drains through the use of a camera that can be probed into the drainage pipes to obtain a video and images of the pipe conditions.

In the fall of 2011, a preliminary report was provided to the Drain Commission office detailing the conditions of the drains. The report provided the following analysis:

- 35% of the concrete pipe bottom is deteriorating or missing.
- Several hundred feet of pipe has significant sand deposits.
- There are eleven locations of cracked/broken pipe.
- The condition rating ranges from 2.0 (minimal collapse risk) to 5.0 (collapse imminent). 40% of the pipe had a rated condition of 4.7 or higher.

Mr. Carson explained that upon review of the engineering analysis, the County Board of Commissioners worked with the Drain Commission office to appoint a Committee to oversee potential alternatives to handle the situation of the dilapidated drains. Mr. Carson explained that the Committee was tasked with holding this public involvement meeting where the information from the engineering report can be shared with property owners within the watershed.

All Committee members introduced themselves to those present at the meeting. There were approximately 60 members of the public that attended the meeting. Mark DiBenedetto, Drain Commissioner, introduced himself and indicated that the purpose of the meeting was for the Crommer and McGuineas drains only. He also provided those present with his office hours.

David Christian of DC Engineering provided those present with a PowerPoint presentation explaining the study they performed. He also explained the boundary area of the McGuineas and Crommer drains. It was also indicated that in 1907, the McGuineas drain was established, and in 1928, the Crommer drain was established. The preliminary investigation indicated that there are sinkholes which have developed throughout the drainage district. A camera which was sent through the pipe determined that there were problems with the pipe conditions, which included areas of sand deposits, areas where the bottom of the pipe was completely gone and there was imminent failure of collapse, and areas where the pipe was cracked. Mr. Christian went on to explain pipe hydraulics and indicated that there were basically three alternatives which could be considered. The first was to improve the drainage system to prevent a 100 year storm event failure. The second was to repair the 800 feet of damaged pipe. The third was to do nothing. He indicated that a bigger system could be built as long as areas to store excess water could be determined.

The meeting was then turned over to members of the public present for comment. Audience comments included concern over health problems of standing water; the fact that there have been very few problems with the drain over the past 40 years; concern over creating a new system which would cause flooding of other properties; the fact that an open drain could be developed rather than replacing an enclosed drain; the suggestion to just clean out the drain with extra budgeted County money; and questions whether the system is undersized and where water would be stored. Many of those present asked questions on the next step in the process, and Committee members assured the public that they would be kept informed.

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The engineer indicated that the sinkholes which were caused by the previous storm would cause problems with roads and private property in the future if nothing is done. There was also a comment from the public indicating that all Manistee County residents should pay for this repair, not just those within the drainage district. There were also many questions on how much money this would cost the residents of the district.

After lengthy public comment and explanation by the experts present, the Committee took a poll regarding the three potential alternatives. Four members of the public indicated they would do nothing and leave the drain in its current condition. Twenty people indicated that they would like to see the damaged pipe repaired only. Seven people indicated that they would like to see the damaged pipe repaired and/or enlarge the system to store more water upstream.

Prior to closing the meeting, the Committee indicated that they would meet again to determine costs for repairing the damaged pipe and would keep the public informed as they move forward in this process. A meeting of the Committee will be scheduled again in the near future and the County Board will be consulted on financial issues surrounding this project.

With no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas D. Kaminski, County Controller/Administrator